



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Prices unchanged in New York. In all other areas, asking prices for next week trending sharply lower. The market tone was unsettled entering the weekend. Movement continued to show signs of improvement and was noted as mostly moderate to good. Supplies ranged adequate to ample, although spot locations reported that supplies were in better balance when compared to early week trading. Breaking stock offerings in a full range of sufficient to ample for the light to moderate demand. Breaking schedules about normal to normal. Light type hens generally adequate for the moderate demand. Processing schedules were reduced for next week.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

MIDWEST REGIONAL EGG Producer prices 5 cents lower for the larger sizes and 2 cents lower for small. The balance of prices unchanged. Trade sentiment barely steady to weak. Cartoned egg sales mixed with improvement noted in many areas and reported as usually moderate to good. Loose egg demand was light to fairly good and also seen as improving. Supplies adequate to ample, although in better balance than earlier in the week.

	RANGE	MOSTLY	IA-MN-WI Prices paid to producers.	Range	Mostly
EXTRA LARGE	107-116	111-113	LARGE	70-77	72
LARGE	107-115	109-112	MEDIUM	52-56	54
MEDIUM	89-95	92-94	SMALL	38-40	

MIDWEST AREA: IA,IL,IN,KY,MI,MN,OH,NE,ND,SD,WI,WV, Western NY, and Western PA

NORTHEAST REGIONAL EGG Prices unchanged, however asking prices for next week's deliveries trending sharply lower on all sizes. Trade sentiment ranged barely steady to weak. Demand ranged moderate to good, best where features were in progress or planned for Easter. Large eggs on special for 88 cents per dozen, limit 3. Supplies were adequate to ample. Breaking stock offerings adequate to fully adequate and demand was noted as light to moderate. Schedules about normal for the upcoming week. Spent hen availability was generally sufficient for the mostly moderate demand. Processing schedules reported as less than normal.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	112-126	115-119
LARGE	109-123	114-118
MEDIUM	89-102	94-96

NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, Eastern NJ, Eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL EGG Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment barely steady to at times weak. Demand into retail channels mixed, usually moderate to good as it continues to improve. Food service movement moderate to at times fairly good. Supplies remained more on the fully adequate to available side but a few sellers were reporting them as improved. Central states breaking stock prices unchanged to lower with checks and undergrades lower. Offerings fully adequate to ample for the generally quiet demand. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment barely steady to weak.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	113.5-122	115-118
LARGE	112.5-121	114-117
MEDIUM	92.5-101	94-97

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA: AR,AZ,CO,KS,LA,MO,NM,OK, and TX

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL EGG Prices unchanged, however asking prices for next week's deliveries trending sharply lower. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak entering the weekend. Demand light to at times fairly good, best where features were planned. Supplies adequate to ample for present needs. Breaking stock offerings sufficient to fully adequate for the light to moderate demand. Breaking schedules about normal. Spent hen offerings generally sufficient for the mostly moderate demand. Slaughter schedules reported as less than normal for the upcoming week.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	113-128	117-120
LARGE	112-126	115-118
MEDIUM	90-109	92-96

SOUTHEAST AREA: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, Eastern TN, and Southern VA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

NEW YORK EGGS Prices were unchanged on all sizes. The market tone was barely steady to weak entering the weekend. Demand showed signs of improvement and ranged moderate to good. Supplies were adequate to ample for immediate trade requirements.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	103-107
LARGE	101-105
MEDIUM	81-85

CHICAGO AND MIDWEST EGGS Prices were unchanged. The market tone was barely steady to weak. Retail demand was fairly good. Food service movement was moderate to fairly good. Supplies were fully adequate.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	113-121	115-117
LARGE	112-120	113-116
MEDIUM	94-103	97-99

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WESTERN REGION EGG Prices were unchanged. The market tone was very weak with asking prices for next week 20 cents lower on all sizes throughout the region. Retailer demand moderate to fairly good. Floor stocks ample.

CALIFORNIA EGGS Prices unchanged. The market tone was very weak with asking prices for next week 20 cents lower on all sizes. Retailer demand moderate to fairly good. Floor stocks ample. Small benchmark price 111. Ads in Southern California: smaller outlets-extra large dozen 2 for \$5.

CALIFORNIA California Egg Marketing Association and other marketers benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

	RANGE
JUMBO	159
EXTRA LARGE	158
LARGE	150
MEDIUM	131

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	141-148
EXTRA LARGE	139-146
LARGE	137-140
MEDIUM	118-121

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	299-399
EXTRA LARGE	289-359
LARGE	239-349
MEDIUM	199-289

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Breaking stock prices ranged unchanged to lower with checks and undergrades lower. Offerings were fully adequate to ample with demand generally quiet. Many breakers had bid and purchased breaking stock at lower values for future needs while some waited for the market to settle. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment barely steady to weak.

Prices paid, material exchanged, 30 dozen case equivalent, 48 lb., minimum net weight, delivered to breakers, cents per dozen.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	64-70	64-65
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	56-62	56-58
CENTRAL STATES AREA:		
AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

EASTERN REGION BREAKING STOCK Prices were sharply lower when compared to early week trading. The undertone was unsettled as buyers and sellers closely monitored further market developments. Supplies were adequate to fully adequate. Breaking schedules were reported as about normal for next week. Demand was light to moderate. Cases broken under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 27-Mar-2004 was 2 percent less than the previous week, however 11 percent higher than the same week a year ago.

Prices paid, material exchanged, 30 dozen case equivalent, 48 lb., minimum net weight, delivered to breakers, cents per dozen.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	59-72	67-71
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	54-61	
EASTERN REGION AREA:		
AL,CT,DE,FL,GA,KY,ME,MD,MA,MS,NH,NJ,NY,NC,PA,RI,SC,TN,VT,VA,WW		

EGGS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION - W/E 27-MAR-04
(Lbs in thousands) (EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)

	CASES BROKEN	LIQUID WHOLE	LIQUID WHITE	LIQUID YOLK	DRIED	INED
CW	1,188,239	29,064	11,047	5,897	2,138	4,113
PW	1,160,324	28,714	10,452	5,909	1,983	4,002
LY	1,089,488	27,576	9,447	5,345	1,868	4,080
% CHG PW	2	1	6	0	8	3
% CHG LY	9	5	17	10	14	1
2004	13,945,251	331,632	133,444	74,541	30,779	48,999
2003	13,376,776	325,641	121,180	67,279	28,762	49,543
% CHG YTD	4	2	10	11	7	-1

AVERAGE YIELD PER CASE-	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	LAST YEAR
(INEDIBLE INCLUDED)	42.18	42.3	42.63
(INEDIBLE EXCLUDED)	38.72	38.85	38.89

NATIONAL LIQUID Pasteurized whites reported from 84 to 86 cents fob with pasteurized salt yolk reported from 62 to 66 cents fob. Trade sentiment was barely steady to mostly weak for whole egg, steady for whites and mostly steady for yolk. Offerings were mixed, mostly balanced to adequate. Demand was fair to fairly good for all liquid products with increased interest noted in additional tanker volumes of liquid yolk. Breaking stock prices were sharply lower when compared to last week's reported prices.

Prices paid cents per lb., FOB Plant to 10:00 AM non-pasteurized trucklot. For delivery within 14 days.

CLASS	LOADS	RANGE	WTD. AVG.	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK
WHOLE	6	71-74	73.17	-5.91
WHITES	17	76-77.5	77.18	.05
YOLKS	4	61-62	61.75	

EASTERN REGION FROZEN Majority prices were unchanged on whites, lower on whole, unchanged to lower on sugar yolks and irregular on salt yolks when compared to the previous week's trading. Trade sentiment was somewhat cautious as traders watch further market developments. Demand was fair but not aggressive. Offerings were usually clearing on whites, balanced to available on whole, and irregular but generally adequate on yolks. Liquid and frozen eggs (ingredients included) processed under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 27 March 2004 were unchanged from the previous week, but 11% more than last year.

Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb containers)

	TRUCKLOTS RANGE	(MIN. 25 CONT.) MOSTLY	LTL RANGE
WHOLE	82-91	82-85	89-98
BLENDS (/)	TFEWR		95-105
WHITES	86-92	89-91	94-99
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	72-77	74-77	80-92
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	70-75	72-74	77-82

(/)- Whole plus yolk plus sweetener, generally 20-32% egg solids.

CENTRAL REGION FROZEN Frozen whole egg prices ranged unchanged to lower, with sugared yolk unchanged to 2 cents lower, and the balance of prices unchanged. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak for whole egg, steady for whites and mostly steady for sugared and salted yolk. Offerings were adequate for all products with the exception of whites which were adequate to tight. Demand was reported as generally quiet for all frozen products. Breaking stock prices were sharply lower when compared to last week's reported prices.

Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

	TRUCKLOTS RANGE	MOSTLY
WHOLE	82-85	
WHITES	89-92	90-92
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	72-78	77
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	72-75	

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FROZEN Prices were 4 cents lower on whole, 1 cent lower on yolks, and unchanged on whites. Southern California breaking activity for the week ending 3/27 was 17% more than the previous week. Frozen demand was fairly good with freezer stocks light.

Wholesale selling prices, f.o.b. shipping point (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

	LTL (MIN. 25 CONT.) RANGE
WHOLE	88-91
WHITES	94-97
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	80-83
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	78-81

NATIONAL DRIED EGG REPORT Majority prices were unchanged on albumen, unchanged to lower on yolks, and lower on whole and blends when compared to a week earlier. Trucklot trading was usually slow and limited. Overall, demand was moderate to light, with most buyers still purchasing for immediate needs. However, additional inquiry was developing. The undertone was mixed on yolks, unsettled on whole, and generally steady to about steady on albumen. Dried eggs processed under federal inspection for the week ending 27 March 2004 were 8% more than the previous week, and 14% more than last year. The total year to date dried eggs produced were 7% more than a year ago.

Wholesale selling prices, dollars per lb., in containers, trucklot & less-than-trucklot volumes.

WHOLE	3.10-3.65	MOSTLY 3.30-3.45
YOLKS	1.62-2.10	MOSTLY 1.65-1.70
ALBUMEN, SPRAY, DRIED	6.80-7.35	MOSTLY 6.90-7.15
BLENDS (WHOLE PLUS SWEETENER)	2.00-2.55	MOSTLY 2.08-2.20

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR MAR 26, 2004-APR 01, 2004**CURRENT LOADS** 72.00**FUTURE LOADS** 85.00**TOTAL LOADS** 157.00

	SE		NE		MW		
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS
GNR W 1	84.00	89.40	77.25	83.00	—	—	12.00
GNR W 3	—	—	—	62.00	—	—	1.00
GL W J	—	—	—	—	63.00	—	2.00
GL W XL	—	109.38	94.79	94.29	76.55	79.25	35.50
GL W LG	—	102.43	82.67	86.00	80.00	—	15.50
GL W MD	68.00	—	60.67	62.86	60.00	—	7.75
GL W SM	51.75	53.75	55.40	57.20	—	53.00	4.25
GL BR LG	—	—	—	—	—	106.00	.75
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	77.00	67.10	67.47	78.50
NRBS - 42	—	—	—	—	—	66.00	2.00
NRBS - 36	—	—	—	—	43.50	45.75	3.00

	SC		NW		SW		
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS
GL W J	64.00	—	—	—	—	86.60	5.00
GL W XL	78.50	—	72.00	—	—	83.45	8.75
GL W LG	70.00	—	69.75	—	—	80.00	7.50
GL W MD	65.36	—	—	—	69.00	70.00	4.75
GL W SM	44.75	—	—	—	—	46.00	1.00
NRBS - 39	—	67.00	—	—	—	—	1.00

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT-MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED. LOAD MOVEMENT REPRESENTS TOTAL MOVEMENT WITHIN 6 REGIONS.

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL

WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS

(INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Majority prices were generally unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was mostly moderate. Offering of spent fowl were generally sufficient for trade needs. Processing schedules less than normal. Opinions on removal cost were steady.

RANGE MAJORITY

REMOVAL COST 0-12 8.5-11

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Costs of disposal were too few to report. Demand for spent hens was light. Offerings remained fully adequate. Schedules were sufficient to cover a fair call for finished product. Values were expected to remain steady.

RANGE MAJORITY

REMOVAL COST TOO FEW TO REPORT

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Removal costs were higher. Offerings were adequate and reported as more available than the previous week. Opinions of value were about steady.

RANGE MAJORITY

REMOVAL COST 4.5-10.5 4.5-5

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plant schedules moderate. Offerings adequate.

SHELL EGGS-COMBINED REGIONAL

AVERAGE PRICES ON SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A LARGE OR BETTER, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

REGIONS	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST	117.00	116.00	95.00
SOUTHEAST	118.50	116.50	94.00
MIDWEST	112.00	110.50	93.00
SOUTH CENTRAL	116.50	115.50	95.50
COMBINED REGIONAL	115.99	114.64	94.43

Computed from simple weekly averages weighted by regional area populations.

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Sales were too few to report on heavy canners. Light canners were unchanged to slightly higher when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate for lights; fair to moderate for heavies which were in short supply due to internal use. Limited offerings were clearing satisfactorily. Processing schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS

(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)

25.5-30.5 MAJORITY 25-26

HEAVY CANNER HENS

(WITHOUT NECKS)

TOO FEW TO REPORT

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS

(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)

27-32 MAJORITY 27.5-28

HEAVY CANNER HENS

(WITHOUT NECKS)

TOO FEW TO REPORT

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION W/E 27-Mar-04
(PRELIMINARY)

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
HEAD	1,254	1,222	2,476
LAST WEEK	1,283	1,338	2,621
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,980	1,391	3,371
TO-DATE/2004	15,274	15,206	30,480
TO-DATE/2003	20,204	16,315	36,519

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
HEAD	216	0	216
LAST WEEK	202	11	213
SAME WEEK YR AGO	239	0	239
TO-DATE/2004	2,789	40	2,829
TO-DATE/2003	3,722	49	3,771

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, PLTRY DEVELOPMENT DIV.

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	1,470	1,222	2,692
LAST WEEK	1,485	1,349	2,834
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,219	1,391	3,610
TO-DATE/2004	18,063	15,246	33,309
TO-DATE/2003	23,926	16,364	40,290

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending March 20, 2004		Year-To-Date	
Type	2004	2003 /1	2004 2003
LIQUID	190	204	1,739 2,131
FROZEN	0	0	0 14
DRIED	53	0	154 135
TOTAL	243	204	1,893 2,280

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending March 20, 2004		Year-To-Date	
Type	2004	2003 /1	2004 2003
LIQUID	0	72	1,072 1,381
FROZEN	0	44	200 967
DRIED	40	40	635 240
TOTAL	40	156	1,907 2,588

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending March 20, 2004		Year-To-Date	
Type	2004	2003 /1	2004 2003
JUMBO	0	0	50 0
EXTRA LARGE	540	60	2,700 240
LARGE	1,160	360	11,053 5,593
MEDIUM	750	774	8,280 9,658
UNGRADED	1,500	0	14,988 1,470
MISC	0	390	0 1,782
TOTAL	3,950	1,584	37,071 18,743

/1Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

Data Source: Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division.

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - (INCL GOVT STOCKS)**SELECTED STGE CENTERS (IN THOUSANDS)**

	FREGS LBS	TURKS LBS	POP LBS
AM 03/29/04	3,243	183,852	42,490
AM 03/01/04	3,548	169,441	39,330
CHG	-305	14411	3160
PCT CHG	-9%	9%	8%

MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS

W/E 27-Mar-04

SELECTED CONSUMING CENTERS	CW THOUSANDS	PW	PCT CHG PW LY
ATLANTA	27.8	25.0	11 26
BOSTON	3.3	3.3	0 0
CHICAGO	75.4	71.4	6 40
DETROIT	29.5	27.1	9 -12
KANSAS CITY	3.1	3.0	3 -28
LOS ANGELES	86.4	86.6	0 2
NEW ORLEANS	8.3	8.4	-1 -41
NEW YORK	31.8	28.4	12 2
ST. LOUIS	17.4	15.7	11 -5
SAN FRANCISCO	17.2	20.1	-14 -21
TOTAL	300.2	289.0	4 4
4 WK MVG AVG	299.3		

COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT REPORT

W/E 27-Mar-04

(RECEIPTS FROM PRODUCERS)

REGIONS	CASES (IN THOUS)	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PW LY
N. ATLANTIC	229.8	4 3
E.N. CENTRAL	588.5	1 7
W.N. CENTRAL	291.3	1 -2
S. ATLANTIC	189.7	2 1
S. CENTRAL	100.0	-4 0
WEST	168.3	-11 -14
TOTAL	1567.6	0 1
MATCHED PLANTS REPORTING		85 85

NEW ENGLAND WEEKLY SHELL EGG REPORT

Mar 23, 2004

PRICES PAID PER DOZEN GRADE A BROWN EGGS IN CARTONS DELIVERED STORE DOOR.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
MAINE MOSTLY	156 -	150 -	122 -	83 -
NEW HAMPSHIRE MOSTLY	148-152 150-151	142-146 144-145	114-118 116-117	75-79 77-78
RHODE ISLAND MOSTLY	155-159 155	149-153 149	121-125 121	82-86 82
VERMONT MOSTLY	156-159 159	150-153 153	125 -	- -

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